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10/607,119

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EXAMINER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/607,119
Filing Date: June 26, 2003
Appellant(s): VADELLA ET AL.

MAILED

DEC 12 2007

Technology Center 2100

Jason S. Feldmar (Reg. No. 39,187)
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 8/28/07 appealing from the Office action
mailed 3/29/07.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

Platform SDK: COM	IGlobalInterfaceTable	11-2001
IGlobalInterfaceTable		
2004/0205734 A1	Srinivasan et al.	10-2004

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

- Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platform SDK: COM IGlobalInterfaceTable (hereinafter referred to as IGlobalInterfaceTable) in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/020734 A1 to Srinivasan et al.

Text of the Final Rejection

Text of the Final Rejection is reproduced for convenience.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.
2. ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platform SDK: COM IGlobalInterfaceTable (hereinafter referred to as IGlobalInterfaceTable pages 1-2) in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/020734 A1 to Srinivasan et al.

4. As to claim 1, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches a computer-implemented method for enabling communication between applications ("...any apartment...any other apartment..." page 1 line 3), comprising: a secondary application creating a bridge object ("...an object..." page 1 line 1: NOTE: IGlobalInterfaceTable does not explicitly teach "a secondary application creating a bridge object", however, "the object" is implemented the "other apartment" and as such is inherently being instantiated by "the other apartment"), wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object ("...an interface..." page 1 line 1); registering the interface for the bridge object in a global interface table (GIT) ("Register..." page 1 lines 5/37-38, "...register..." page 2 line 5); retrieving a cookie from

the GIT in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object (“...a cookie...” page 2 line 6, “...get a cookie...” page 2 line 5); and storing the cookie in a location that is accessible to a application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface (“...GetInterfacefaceFromglobal method...this cookie...” page 1 lines 39 – 41).

IGlobalInterfaceTable is silent with reference to disconnected applications and the disconnected application is unaware of the secondary application.

Srinivasan teaches disconnected applications (COM Application 110 page 1 paragraph 0008) and the disconnected application is unaware of the secondary application (“...cannot directly call...” page 1 paragraphs 0008/0011).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of IGlobalInterfaceTable with the teaching of Srinivasan because the teaching of Srinivasan would improve the system of IGlobalInterfaceTable by providing a method for allowing access to services from a client application that cannot otherwise directly call and operate offline from the services (Srinivasan page 1 paragraphs 0007/0008).

5. As to claim 2, Srinivasan teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment (figure 1 (Active X Component 135) page 1 paragraphs 0007-0010).

6. As to claim 3, Srinivasan teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control (Active X Component 135 page 1 paragraph 0008).
7. As to claim 4, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the registering of the interface for the bridge object in the GIT comprises placing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object in the GIT (“...an interface pointer...” page 1 lines 8-9).
8. As to claim 5, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface (“...identifies...” page 1 line 39).
9. As to claim 6, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising: the application extracting the cookie from the location; the application accessing the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and the application communicating with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object (“...GetInterfaceFromGlobal method...” page 1 lines 40 – 41) and Srinivasan teaches disconnected application (Active X Component 135 page 1 paragraph 0008).
10. As to claims 7 and 13, see the rejection of claim 1 above.

11. As to claims 8 and 14, see the rejection of claim 2 above.
12. As to claims 9 and 15, see the rejection of claim 3 above.
13. As to claims 10-12, see the rejection of claims 4-6 respectively.
14. As to claims 16-18, see the rejection of claims 4-6 respectively.
15. As to claim 19, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the location comprises an environment variable ("...pointer...location..." page 1 lines 38 – 39).
16. As to claim 20, IGlobalInterfaceTable teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the secondary application and application are executing within a same process but in different apartments ("...in the process..." page 1 lines 3 – 4).
17. As to claims 21-24, see the rejection of claims 19 and 20 above.

(10) Response to Argument

Appellant argues in substance that (1) the IGlobalInterfaceTable nor Srinivasan prior art references do not teach or suggest storing of a cookie in location that is

accessible to a disconnected application, (2) the IGlobalInterfaceTable nor Srinivasan prior art references do not teach or suggest a disconnected application that is unaware of the secondary application, (3) the IGlobalInterfaceTable nor Srinivasan prior art references do not teach or suggest a secondary application and disconnected application that execute within the same process and (4) the IGlobalInterfaceTable nor Srinivasan prior art references do not teach or suggest a secondary application that comprises a project hosting environment.

Examiner respectfully traverses Appellant's arguments:

As to point (1), as the final rejection of 3/29/07 indicates, the Examiner admits that the IGlobalInterfaceTable prior art does not teach a disconnected application, however, it does teach communication between apartments (applications) in a process. To allow these apartments communicate an IGlobalInterfaceTable via CoCreateInstance creates an object and registers its interface, thus allowing for transparent communication between the apartments (applications). A pointer to the interface is **stored** as a cookie in a location accessible to an apartment wanting to call another apartment. An apartment that wants to call another apartment gets the stored cookie via a GetInterfaceFromGlobal method from **its stored location** and subsequently makes the call or invokes the service. Therefore, contrary to Appellant's assertion, the IGlobalInterfaceTable prior art does teach a cookie associated with an interface and stored in a location accessible to an (disconnected) application (apartment) and allows for transparent communication between a secondary application and (disconnected) application (apartments).

As to point (2), although the IGlobalInterfaceTable prior art does teach an apartment that transparently (unaware) communicates with another apartment via an interface, it does not teach a **disconnected application** that is unaware of a secondary application hence the introduction of the Srinivasan prior art. Appellant's specification is replete with the disclosure that the disconnected application and secondary application are ActiveX control/component associated (page 5 paragraph 0011, page 7 paragraph 0029, page 11 paragraph 0033, page 16 paragraph 0050). The Srinivasan prior art disclosed com application (COM Application 110) which serves as the disconnected application because it is ActiveX control/component associated. The com application is unaware or cannot directly call the service it is requesting and as a result relies upon a bridge (Bridge 120) to transparently communicate or call the service. Therefore the Srinivasan prior art does teach a disconnected application (COM Application) that is unaware of the secondary application (service) because it provides a bridge (Bridge 120) that allows the applications to communicate transparently.

As to point (3), contrary to Applicant's assertion the IGlobalInterfaceTable prior art do teach a secondary application and disconnected application that executes within the same process because the different apartments execute in the **same process** (page 1 lines 3-4).

As to point (4), the secondary application which as disclosed and/or claimed comprises project hosting environment and instantiates or hosts ActiveX controls. The Srinivasan prior art in satisfying this claim limitation discloses a com application that

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calls or invokes services of an application (secondary application) and these services hosted by the application are ActiveX controls/components

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

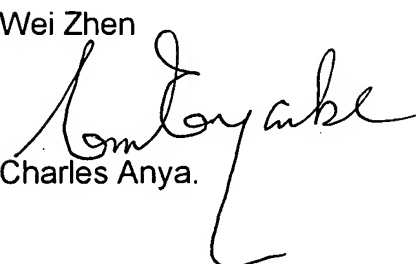
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